

CLAIMS

1. A weep vent for masonry wall structures comprising a shaped mass of intertwined filaments having substantial open areas, the weep vent being positionable in a mortar joint of the wall structure for venting moisture from one side of the masonry wall structure to the other, wherein the weep vent includes a narrower front end and a wider rear end, wherein when the weep vent is positioned within a masonry wall structure, the narrower front end is on an exterior side of the masonry wall structure and the wider end is disposed on an interior side of the masonry wall structure for the purpose of receiving and funneling moisture from the interior side of the masonry wall structure through the weep vent from the interior side of the masonry wall structure to the exterior side of the masonry wall structure.

2. The weep vent of Claim 1 wherein the filaments of the shaped mass are polymeric.

3. The weep vent of Claim 2 wherein the filaments have a diameter of between about 0.025 inch and about 0.030 inch.

4. The weep vent of Claim 1 wherein the intertwined filaments of the shaped mass are randomly connected at their intersections to form a unit-handled structure.

5. The weep vent of Claim 4 wherein the unit-handled structure is substantially planar and has a substantially uniform thickness that substantially equals that of a mortar joint area of a masonry wall wherein the weep vent is to be installed.

6. The weep vent of Claim 5 wherein the unit-handled structure has a thickness on the order of the thickness of a typical mortar joint of the masonry wall structure with which the weep vent is associated.

7. The weep vent of Claim 5 wherein the unit-handled structure is substantially trapezoidal in form.

8. The weep vent of Claim 5 wherein the unit-handled structure is dimensioned to have a length, as measured from the front end to the rear end, that is greater than the width of an associated masonry member as measured from an exterior face thereof to an interior face thereof, wherein the wider rear end of the unit-handled structure thereof extends beyond the interior face of the associated masonry member to better receive moisture from a space adjacent the interior face of the associated masonry member.

9. The weep vent of Claim 8 wherein the wider rear end includes a vertically extending reach of substantially the same intertwined filament material from which the weep vent is formed, with the vertically extending reach extending upwardly from the weep vent into said space.

10. The weep vent of Claim 5 additionally including a reach of substantially the same material from which the weep vent is formed that extends upwardly from the wider rear end region of the weep vent in a wall space located above the wider rear end region of the weep vent.

11. A weep vent cooperatively associated with a masonry wall comprising a substantially planar member formed from interconnected and intertangled filaments having substantial open areas between and around the

filaments to permit moisture to pass therethrough and forming a unit-handled structure for ready placement in a mortar joint area of the masonry wall under construction, wherein the weep vent has an inner end region and an outer end region for being installed proximate inner and outer surfaces, respectively, of the masonry wall, with the inner end region being wider than the outer end region.

12. The weep vent of Claim 11 wherein the masonry wall includes block and foundation elements secured in conventional manner by mortar joints between the elements, and wherein the weep vent is interposed in a mortar joint area adjacent an associated block element that overlies the weep vent, with the inner end region proximate an inner surface of the associated block element, and the outer end region proximate an outer surface of the associated block element for permitting moisture to pass through the weep vent from proximate the inner surface toward the outer surface.

13. The weep vent of Claim 11 wherein the front end region is substantially flush with the outer surface, and the rear end region projects rearwardly from the inner surface.

14. The weep vent of Claim 13 additionally including a reach of substantially the same material from which the weep vent is formed that extends upwardly from the wider rear end region of the weep vent in a wall space located above the wider rear end region of the weep vent.

15. A weep vent comprising a weep vent member formed from extruded filaments of heated polymer material that are entangled while still hot after being extruded so as to form bonds between the filaments where the filaments

engage each other, with the bonded and entangled filaments cooperating to define opposed sides of weep vent member that extend in substantially parallel planes, and with the weep vent member additionally having opposed sides that extend in non-parallel relationship between front and rear end surfaces of unequal length to provide the weep vent member with a generally planar configuration characterized by a front end surface that is shorter in length than the rear end surface.

16. The weep vent of Claim 15 wherein the extruded filaments are of substantially uniform diameter.

17. The weep vent of Claim 15 wherein the opposed sides each are substantially flat, wherein the front and rear end surfaces are substantially flat and extend in substantially parallel planes, and wherein the configuration of the weep vent as cooperatively defined by the opposed sides and the front and rear end surfaces is substantially trapezoidal.

18. In combination, the weep vent of Claim 15 and a reach of substantially the same extruded entangled filament material from which the weep vent is formed, with the reach of material being adapted to extend upwardly from the rear end region of the weep vent when the weep vent is installed in a mortar joint area of a masonry wall to aid in ducting moisture from within an interior space of the masonry wall to the rear end region of the weep vent for passage through the weep vent and discharge through the front end region of the weep vent.